



May 2022

Sons of Norway • Askeladden Lodge 5-610 • Kalamazoo, Michigan  
A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Norway  
[facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge](https://facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge)

5-22

**Meetings:** *In-person cancelled until further notice due to the pandemic. Monthly meetings will be conducted virtually online.*

Sept - April: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, 2 p.m.  
May only: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 2 p.m.

**Officers:**

**President:** Gail Thompson-Hadley  
(269) 845-2265  
[ghadley@iusb.edu](mailto:ghadley@iusb.edu)

**Vice-President/Acting Membership Secretary/Editor:**

Joan O'Bryan  
507 Clinton Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001  
(269) 383-6802  
[joan.obryan@wmich.edu](mailto:joan.obryan@wmich.edu)

**Secretary:** Karen Hare  
(269) 568-9797  
[astutekaren@gmail.com](mailto:astutekaren@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Publisher:** Judy Hande-Skutnick  
(269) 903-8386  
[jhandeskutnick@gmail.com](mailto:jhandeskutnick@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Curtis Cleveland  
(269) 381-4531  
[cacleve82@att.net](mailto:cacleve82@att.net)

**Cultural Director:**  
Vacant

**Affiliation:**  
Sons of Norway International  
1455 West Lake St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Andy Johnsen, President,  
Sons of Norway District 5;  
Director, District 5 Zone 6  
[ajjohnsen@att.net](mailto:ajjohnsen@att.net)

**Benefits Counselor:**  
Greg Ragan  
(815) 623-8817  
[gragan51@gmail.com](mailto:gragan51@gmail.com)  
[www.raganfinancialgroup.com](http://www.raganfinancialgroup.com)

Lodge contact info:  
[Askeladden.Lodge@gmail.com](mailto:Askeladden.Lodge@gmail.com)  
(269) 350-3330

## Sunday, May 15 (third Sunday) Syttende Mai Celebration 2 p.m. in Hartford - RSVP by May 12

Please join us at Hadley Homestead a few miles south of Hartford for our first Askeladden Lodge in-person gathering since our wonderful picnic at the Ketchum Park in Marshall last July. We will celebrate the coming of spring 2022 and Syttende Mai.

**When:** Sunday, May 15, 2 – 4 p.m.

**Where:** 65275 77th Ave, Hartford MI 49057

**Directions:** Take exit 46 from I-94 about 30 miles west of Kalamazoo.

*Note: if construction still has 687 blocked just south of exit 46, turn left, and then right at the first road, right again, and then left back on 687 heading south.*

Drive 3 ½ miles south on County Rd 687.

Turn right/west onto dirt road 77th Ave for ½ mile.

Home is blue house on the left on a slight hill with 500' drive through the fields.

**Bring:**

- Cold food to share such as salads, fruit, veggies, cheese, smoked fish, crackers, open-faced sandwiches or Norwegian sweet treats. We will provide drinks and table service.
- Lawn chair if you have one (we do have a dozen+ outdoor & indoor seating).
- Boots or mud shoes and tick protection if you'd like to do a wildflower woods hike after our meal, celebration and brief business meeting.

**RSVP:** Please call or text Gail by Thursday, May 12, if you plan to attend:

**(269) 845-2265** *Please stay home if you have any illness symptoms.*

We don't normally have a business meeting at our Syttende Mail celebration, but because only the Lodge members can approve modifications to the budget, we need to hold a brief business meeting to consider the request from our Scholarship and Finance committees to increase the 2022 budget allocation for scholarships from \$3,000 to \$7,000 to fully fund seven college scholarships.

Syttende mai er Norges grunnlovstag, nasjonaldagen fremfor noen annen.

Barna jublet of vinket tilbake med flaggene sine.

See *Viking Magazine*, page 43, May 2022, for English translation!



# ASKELADDEN NEWS

## Honor Flight seeks Sons of Norway volunteers

*Elizabeth Kraatz*

Askeladden Lodge members are offered two ways to volunteer for the C.A.R. Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight.

June 17 - Assistance will be needed to decorate and set tables prior to the banquet, as well as to serve the family-styled catered meal. The banquet, which begins at 5 p.m., will be held at the RAI Jets aircraft hangar at the airport.

Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient James McCloughan will be among the featured speakers. Watch for information on how to access the hangar (which is in controlled airspace) and when to arrive closer to June, but mark your calendars now!

June 18 - Arrive at Wings Event Center (3600 Vanrick Drive, Kalamazoo) between 6 and 8 p.m. to welcome the veterans on their return from Washington DC. Wear "patriotic palette" (the red, white, and blue of both the Norwegian and the American flags) and join other Askeladden Lodge members in a reserved spot in the hallway so that you can be one of the first to greet the veterans. You may want to bring a small camp chair for your comfort while waiting. Be ready to shake many hands and clap yourself silly!

Let us know you are coming! Sign up for activities here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AA4A92EA20-car1>

## Sons of Norway Hockey Team Schedule

*Curtis Cleveland*

Friday, May 13, 7:25 p.m., Wings West  
Friday, May 20, 6:15 p.m., Wings West  
Friday, June 3, 8:45 p.m., Wings West  
Friday, June 10, 6:15 p.m., Wings West  
Friday, June 17, 10 p.m., Wings West  
Friday, June 24, 7:30 p.m., Wings West  
Friday, July 8, 8:30 p.m., Wings West  
Friday, July 15, 7:15 p.m., Wings West  
Friday, July 22, 10:45 p.m., Wings West  
Friday, July 29, 6 p.m., Wings West  
Friday, August 5, 9:45 p.m., Wings West  
Friday, August 12, 6:15 p.m., Wings West

The games of the Sons of Norway Hockey Team, lasting one hour and free to the public, are played at one of the following venues: Wings West, north of exit 72, off I-94; and Wings Event Center, south of exit 80, off I-94.

## April meeting recap: Astrid's Trip Home

*Joan O'Bryan, Acting Membership Sec.*

Twenty-six members of three lodges enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Askeladden Lodge member Astrid Willis, assisted by her son, Eric. Astrid's personal photos and videos from her trip home to Oslo to visit her dear brother Per Olaf in November 2021 as well as photos from her childhood were presented. Although the COVID Omicron variant, which hit Oslo hard before it came to the States, shortened Astrid's trip by a week, she nonetheless had a wonderful time.

We learned that Astrid's grandfather was a photographer

who studied in Germany and had a studio in Oslo. He lived to be 117 years old! Her great-grandfather was a sea pilot who guided the big ships through the Oslofjord. Astrid's mother, who lived to age 97, lived with Astrid in the States for 6 years before moving back to Norway.

When she was just a girl, Astrid's family would go underground when they heard the air sirens go off during the war.

Both Astrid and her husband worked for an airline, so they were able to return to Norway every year. Her son Kjell Kristian who was born in Norway, lived in Oslo for a while. Mange takk to Astrid for the awesome program!

*April 2022 Askeladden Member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Betsy Fish, Joyce Hare, Karen Hare, Barbara Heffner, Holly Jensen, Alice Kraatz, Elizabeth Kraatz, Vaniar Lander, Gwen Meredith, Joan O'Bryan, Terese Sherman, Kris Spence, Marilyn Stewart, Gail Thompson-Hadley, Crystal Walvoord, and Astrid Willis.*

Please contact [Joan O'Bryan](#) with any attendance corrections.

## Board Meeting called for May 9

The Board will meet by Zoom on Monday, May 9 at 7 p.m. to consider the request of the Scholarship Committee to increase the budget to fund additional scholarships this year. The Board can make a recommendation to the membership, but only the membership can approve an increase to the annual budget. That vote will happen at our Syttende Mai gathering on May 15. Members are allowed to attend Board Meetings, but they are not active participants. If you wish to attend, contact Gail to get the connection information.

## Member Spotlight

### Happy 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Dennis Darling!

Askeladden Lodge sends sincere birthday greetings to Charter Member and former Lodge President Dennis Darling for his milestone 85<sup>th</sup> birthday! Our dear friend Dennis turned 85 in April. Congratulations, Dennis!



Jean & Dennis presented with Sons of Norway 30-year "Golden" Membership pins



Jean & Dennis at 2018 Ice Cream Social



Jean & Dennis at July 2021 Sommerfest



Dennis & Jean at Askeladden Lodge 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, September 2018



Dennis, Chad & Jean 2019 Ice Cream Social

# ASKELADDEN NEWS

*Fra Presidenten*

## Friluftsliv & Honor Flight Volunteer Opportunities

With the advent of spring, I encourage you to get outside for fresh air and exercise one of the easiest ways – a spring hike wherever you can get out to walk near your home. It's time for a daily dose of Friluftsliv!

With the colder than average temperatures in April, our old apple orchard is a week or two behind in spring growth so it's possible we'll have an "orchard in bloom" for our May 15<sup>th</sup> lodge gathering here at Hadley Homestead. As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, little Spring Beauties with their white and pink petals are abundant in both the orchard and woods, the May Apples are developing, and Trout Lilies are blooming. Down by the creek, the yellow Marsh Marigolds are in evidence and Skunk Cabbage spikes are prolific. Spring has arrived in southwest Michigan!

We have some outstanding opportunities to volunteer in support of our Vietnam Veterans in June. Please consider joining other lodge members to help with the dinner for the Honor Flight veterans on Friday, June 17, and/or to greet them on Saturday evening, June 18, when they return from their flight to Washington, D.C. Please see the Honor Flight article in this newsletter for details on how to volunteer as a member of Askeladden Lodge and in support of our veterans. We commend our young lodge member, Alice Kraatz, and her family, for all they have done over the past year to make this Honor Flight possible.

The Askeladden Board of Directors will meet Monday, May 9, at 7 p.m. via Zoom to consider an increase to our 2022 budget to fully support our seven outstanding scholarship winners. If any members would like to listen to the board meeting, contact Gail at [ghadley@iusb.edu](mailto:ghadley@iusb.edu) for the link.

We hope you can join us for our May 15<sup>th</sup> Askeladden Lodge gathering at Hadley Homestead. We look forward to renewing friendships and growing new ones as we enjoy a meal together. Music and our traditional barnetog (children's parade) are planned. For those who desire a little more friluftsliv, join us for a woods walk in search of spring wildflowers.

Gail Thompson-Hadley



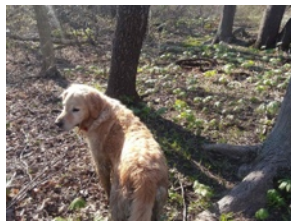
Spring Beauties



Yellow Trout Lily



Great Blue Heron hiding in the West Creek



Oakley amidst the May Apples on forest floor



Hadley Homestead

## Norwegian Film Nominated for Oscar: "Verdens Verste Menneske"

In October 2021, the Norwegian film "Verdens Verste Menneske" was released in France and Norway. The film, which translates to "The Worst Person in the World," has been a hit and has since been released in the USA in early February 2022. In fact, the film has been nominated for an Oscar in the "Best Foreign Language Film" category by The Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences in Hollywood.

This is not the film's first praise, however. The film has already won "Best Foreign Film" at the New York Film Critics Circle in December, making it the first-ever Norwegian film to



win. In the lead role, Renate Reinsve has also been in the spotlight since the film's premiere as she won "Best Actress" at the Cannes Film Festival. The film depicts her character finding her way through life and love.

This is the sixth time Norway has been nominated for an Oscar in that category, however all previous nominations have not been the winners. Sadly, it was not in the cards for "Verdens Verste Menneske" this year. The award went to the film "Drive My Car" from Japan.

## An Aquarium Experience Beyond the Arctic Circle

In the northernmost part of Norway tucked near the water's edge in Tromsø you will find an attraction called "Polaria." Upon first glimpse you might think this building has toppled over, but don't be fooled. Inside you will find exhibits unique to the Svalbard region including a simulated permafrost. The aquarium features rare cold-water fish, fascinating marine life and a large pool housing bearded seals. Visitors are invited to an intimate look at these creatures thanks to a viewing bubble inside the tank wall. If you go, don't forget to reserve time to experience the "Arctic Walkway," a panoramic cinema including displays of polar exploration gear.

While the sea life at Polaria is captivating, the building itself has an interesting design that evokes a massive ice floe; the architecture resembles a toppled cascade of blocks of ice. This attraction opened in 1998 and continues to draw visitors every year.

Be sure and save time to visit this wonder while touring Northern Norway.



# SONS of NORWAY

May  
2022

## Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

### MAI KALENDER



- mai 1 - Første Mai - Arbeidernes Dag - Labor Day in Norway
- mai 8 - Frigjøringsdagen, 1945 - V-E Day - Liberation Day
- mai 8 - Mother's Day USA and Canada
- mai 9 - Askeladden Lodge Board online meeting 7 p.m.
- mai 15 - **Askeladden Syttende Mai Celebration in Hartford - RSVP**
- mai 17 - Syttende Mai - Grunnlovsdag - Norwegian Constitution Day
- mai 23 - Victoria Day - Canada
- mai 26 - Kristi Himmelfartsdag - Ascension Day
- mai 30 - Memorial Day
- juni 3 - last day to submit Askeladden News articles for June/July issue



#### Gratulerer med dagen!

*Fødselsdag Hilsener*

#### May Birthdays

Jean Willinger	Josephine Croce
Alice Kraatz	Curt Osborn
Harper Fugett	Kris Spence
Jeffrey Andert	Augie Erickson

Ruth Hetletvedt

#### Askeladden Lodge Library

[www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway)  
Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.



The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.